

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----181629Z 122630 /53

R 181230Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2945

S E C R E T CONAKRY 0632

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR PGOV US GV EAID UR
SUBJECT: PL -480 AND SOVIET FLIGHTS

1. MOUSSA DIAKITE CONVOKED AMBASSADOR 14 APRIL
TO REQUEST DEFINITIVE US RESPONSE ON IMPLEMENTATION
PL-480 AGREEMENT OF 22 SEPT 76 AND US INTENTIONS
REGARDING REMAINDER OF FY 77 TITLE I REQUEST. SEKOU
CAMARA, MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS MOHAMMED LAMINE TOURE,
ALIMAG DIRGEN LAYE KOUROUMA AND E/C OFFICER DAVID
DLOUHY WERE PRESENT.

2. DIAKITE SAID THAT IN VIEW US COMMITMENT GOG HAD
PLANNED FOOD IMPORTS ASSUMING AVAILABILITY 10,000 MT
US RICE PLUS, GOG HOPED, OTHER FY77 COMMODITIES
(FLOUR, OIL, COTTON). NOW AFTER SEVEN MONTHS OF
SILENCE FROM WASHINGTON, GOG REALLY HAD TO KNOW WHETHER
IT COULD RELY UPON US FOOD CREDITS OR WHETHER IT MUST
URGENTLY ARRANGE AID OR PURCHASES ELSEWHERE.

3. DIAKITE CONTINUED THAT GOG RECOGNIZED THAT TU-95
DEPLOYMENTS WERE AT ISSUE. HOWEVER, US MUST UNDERSTAND
THAT GUINEA WAS THOROUGHLY INDE-
PENDENT AND NONALIGNED AND WOULD NEVER PERMIT UNFRIENDLY
DEPLOYMENTS AGAINST US (COMMENT - YAWN - END COMMENT),

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THAT GUINEA WAS SEVERELY THREATENED BY ITS NEIGHBORS
AND HAD TO HAVE DEFENSIVE HELP, AND THAT US NEVER REALLY
RESPONDED TO GUINEAN REQUEST THAT US CONSIDER GUINEA'S
SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

4. FINALLY, DIAKITE SAID, SEKOU TOURE WAS TREMENDOUSLY
ENCOURAGED BY NEW AFRICAN POLICY OF CARTER ADMINISTRA-

TION, AS HE HAD STATED IN HIS PERSONAL CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER. DIAKITE IMPLIED THAT NEW, MORE PROGRESSIVE AND COOPERATIVE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT ALLOW GUINEA/US RELATIONS TO FOUNDER UPON A SECONDARY ISSUE SUCH AS TU-95 DEPLOYMENTS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING GUINEA LIKE CERTAIN OTHER AFRICAN STATES COULD HAVE ANNOUNCED MARXISM-LENINISM AND RECEIVED ENDLESS AID FROM USSR; HOWEVER, GUINEA WAS DECIDELY NOT A COMMUNIST STATE AND HAD OPTED FOR AFRICAN NATIONALISM AND SOCIALISM. GUINEA WISHED TO HAVE CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH U.S.

5. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT GUINEA'S CHOICE OF GOVERNMENT PHILOSOPHY WAS A DOMESTIC GUINEAN CONCERN ON WHICH USG WOULD NOT PRESUME TO COMMENT. LIKEWISE, IT WAS CLEARLY GUINEA'S PROPER SOVEREIGN PREROGATIVE TO REQUEST FRIENDLY SOVIET DEFENSIVE MILITARY SUPPORT. HOWEVER, WHEN GUINEAN AIRFIELDS WERE USED TO DEPLOYMENTS AGAINST THE SECURITY INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES UNRELATED TO GUINEA'S DEFENSES THIS WAS QUITE A DIFFERENT MATTER AND US MUST EXPRESS ITS LEGITIMATE CONCERN. PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DONE THIS PERSONALLY DURING AMBASSADOR KOUROUMA'S LETTERS PRESENTATION. THE PRESIDENT HAD ALSO UNDERLINED HIS DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AND FURTHER IMPROVE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

6. AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED TU-95S AS HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED LONG RANGE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT NEITHER
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DESIGNED NOR ADAPTED FOR BORDER PATROL WORK. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT GOG MIGHT ASK USSR TO PROVIDE MORE APPROPRIATE LIGHT AIRCRAFT OR HELICOPTERS WHICH COULD IN FACT KEEP WATCH ON GUINEA'S FRONTIERS. DIAKITE, APPARENTLY PREPARED FOR THIS PROPOSAL, ANSWERED THAT SUCH EQUIPMENT WOULD BE VIEWED AS HOSTILE BY SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST AND WOULD SUBJECT GUINEA TO CHARGE OF BEING A SOVIET MILITARY STOOGES (SIC).

7. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO PROCEED RAPIDLY TO A CLARIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES. WHILE THE FULL RANGE OF U.S.-GOG RELATIONS MUST BE CONSIDERED, THE UNITED STATES DID NOT LIKE TO CONDITION ITS ASSISTANCE. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVED THAT THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 22 ACCORD FOLLOWED BY CLARIFICATION OF POLITICAL QUESTIONS. HE HAD SO RECOMMENDED TO WASHINGTON, WHERE THE MATTER WAS UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT A FORTHRIGHT RESPONSE

WOULD SOON BE RECEIVED, AND REPEATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN A FULL REVIEW OF BILATERAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR CONAKRY. HE SAID THAT THE GOG HAD TABLED ITS REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF GUINEAN SECURITY REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE NEED FOR SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

8. COMMENT: FACT THAT MOUSSA DIAKITE INITIATED REQUEST FOR IMPLEMENTATION PL-480 AGREEMENT AFTER SEVEN MONTHS OF "PUNISHING" AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS BOTH THAT GOG NOW SORELY NEEDS FOOD AND THAT GOG HAS BECOME WORRIED ABOUT UNEXPECTED DURATION OF COOL RELATIONS WITH US OVER THE FLIGHTS. CONTINUING FAVORABLE PRESS AND RADIO TREATMENT OF US IN CONAKRY WOULD SUPPORT THIS CONCLUSION. DIAKITE SEEMED MORE ON THE DEFENSIVE THAN HE HAS ON OTHER OCCASIONS, AND MENTIONED HIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN GOG FOR RELATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH USG. HIS REFERENCES TO AN ALTERNATIVE
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TO SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE SUGGESTS GOG WOULD TRY TO REVIVE THE QUESTION OF US INTERESTS IN GUINEAN SECURITY SHOULD HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL TALKS EVER TAKE PLACE.
HARROP

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